

CLAIMS:

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5 1. A method of protecting keratin materials from the harmful effects of pollution, comprising topically applying a composition comprising an effective amount of phytanetriol to said keratin materials.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount ranges from 0.001 to 20% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

10 3. The method of claim 1, wherein said effective amount ranges from 0.1% to 10% by weight, based on the weight of the composition.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said composition is an emulsion.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the phytanetriol is in the form of cubic gel particles.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the cubic gel particles are in aqueous dispersion.

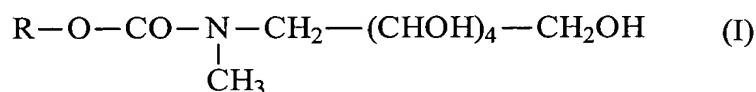
7. The method of claim 1, wherein the phytanetriol is in the form of cubic gel particles, and wherein said cubic gel particles are formed from a mixture comprising:

25 (i) 0.1% to 15% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of phytanetriol or of a mixture of phytanetriol with a compound selected from the group consisting of N-2-alkoxycarbonyl derivatives of N-methylglucamine and unsaturated fatty acid monoglycerides; and

(ii) 0.05 to 3% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of at least one dispersing and stabilizing agent, said agent being selected from the group consisting of surfactants that are water-soluble at room temperature and containing a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched fatty chain containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms.

30 8. The method of claim 7, wherein a weight proportion of compound (i) to said dispersing and stabilizing agent (ii) ranges from 2 to 200.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein said N-2-alkoxycarbonyl derivative of N-methylglucamine corresponds to formula (I) below:



in which R represents a branched alkyl radical containing from 6 to 18 carbon atoms.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein said N-2-alkoxycarbonyl derivative of N-methylglucamine is selected from the group consisting of N-2-hexyldecyloxycarbonyl-N-methylglucamine, N-2-ethyl-hexyloxycarbonyl-N-methylglucamine and N-2-butyloctyloxycarbonyl-N-methylglucamine, and mixtures thereof.

11. The method of claim 7, wherein said cubic gel particles contain as compound (i) a mixture consisting of from 1% to 40% by weight of phytanetriol relative to the weight of the mixture and from 60% to 99% by weight of N-2-alkoxycarbonyl derivative of N-methylglucamine relative to the weight of the mixture.

12. The method of claim 7, wherein said unsaturated fatty acid monoglyceride is selected from the group consisting of glyceryl monooleate, glyceryl monolinoleate, and mixtures thereof.

13. The method of claim 7, wherein said cubic gel particles contain as compound (i) a mixture consisting of from 1% to 50% by weight of phytanetriol relative to the weight of the mixture and from 50% to 99% by weight of unsaturated fatty acid monoglyceride relative to the weight of the mixture.

14. The method of claim 7, wherein said dispersing and stabilizing agent is selected from the group consisting of:

- (1) alkyl or alkenyl ethers or esters of a polyol,
- (2) N-acyl amino acids and derivatives thereof, and peptides N-acylated with an alkyl or alkenyl radical, and salts thereof,

- (3) alkyl or alkenyl ether or ester sulphates, derivatives thereof and salts thereof,
(4) polyoxyethylenated fatty alkyl or alkenyl ethers or esters,
(5) polyoxyethylenated alkyl or alkenyl carboxylic acids and salts thereof,
(6) N-alkyl or alkenyl betaines,
5 (7) alkyl or alkenyl trimethylammoniums and salts thereof, and
(8) mixtures thereof.

15. The method of claim 5, wherein said cubic gel particles have a size ranging from 0.05 μm . to 1 μm .

16. The method of claim 7, wherein said cubic gel particles have a size ranging from 0.05 μm . to 1 μm .

17. The method of claim 6, wherein the dispersion of cubic gel particles further comprises at least one water-insoluble ionic amphiphilic lipid.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein said water-insoluble ionic amphiphilic lipid is at least one selected from the group consisting of:

- (i) phospholipids,
(ii) phosphoric esters of fatty acids,
(iii) water-insoluble N-acyl derivatives of glutamic acid and salts thereof,
(iv) sodium cetyl sulphate,
(v) sodium cocoylmonoglyceride sulphate, and
(vi) water-insoluble quaternary ammonium derivatives.

19. The method of claim 5, wherein said cubic gel particles further comprise at least one hydrophilic and/or lipophilic active principle.

20. The method of claim 7, wherein said cubic gel particles further comprise at least one hydrophilic and/or lipophilic active principle.

21. The method of claim 5, wherein the cubic gel particles are present in an amount

ranging from 0.1% to 20% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

22. The method of claim 7, wherein the cubic gel particles are present in an amount ranging from 0.1% to 20% by weight relative to the total weight of the composition.

5.
23. A treatment process for protecting a keratin material against the effects of pollution, comprising applying to the keratin material a composition comprising an effective amount of phytanetriol in a physiologically acceptable medium.

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24. A treatment process for improving the cell respiration and/or for reducing the desquamation of a keratin material and/or for preventing a keratin material from becoming dull and/or dirty and/or for preventing the dehydration of a keratin material, comprising applying to the keratin material a composition comprising an effective amount of phytanetriol in a physiologically acceptable medium.

25. A process for treating dry skin, comprising applying to the skin a composition comprising an effective amount of phytanetriol in a physiologically acceptable medium.

26. The process of claim 23, wherein said is an emulsion.

27. The process of claim 23, wherein the phytanetriol is in the form of cubic gel particles.

28. The process of claim 23, wherein said keratin material is the skin.

29. The process of claim 24, wherein said is an emulsion.

30. The process of claim 24, wherein the phytanetriol is in the form of cubic gel particles.

31. The process of claim 24, wherein said keratin material is the skin.

32. The process of claim 25, wherein said keratin material is the skin.

33. The process of claim 25, wherein said is an emulsion.

34. The process of claim 25, wherein the phytanetriol is in the form of cubic gel particles.

35. The process of claim 25, wherein said keratin material is the skin.

36. A composition, comprising:

phytanetriol in the form of cubic gel particles,

wherein said cubic gel particles are formed from a mixture comprising:

(i) 0.1% to 15% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of phytanetriol or of a mixture of phytanetriol with a compound selected from the group consisting of N-2-alkoxycarbonyl derivatives of N-methylglucamine and unsaturated fatty acid monoglycerides; and

(ii) 0.05 to 3% by weight, relative to the total weight of the composition, of at least one dispersing and stabilizing agent, said agent being selected from the group consisting of surfactants that are water-soluble at room temperature and containing a saturated or unsaturated, linear or branched fatty chain containing from 8 to 22 carbon atoms.